



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,864	11/26/2003	Girsih K. Muralidharan	138256SV/YOD GEMS:0249	9698
7590 Patrick S. Yoder FLETCHER YODER P.O. Box 692289 Houston, TX 77269-2289	09/28/2009		EXAMINER FEARER, MARK D	
			ART UNIT 2443	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/28/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,864	MURALIDHARAN, GIRSIH K.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MARK D. FEARER	2443	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2009.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18,20-23,31-35 and 40-49 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-18,20-23,31-35 and 40-49 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Amendment of 15 January 2009 is acknowledged.
 2. Claims 1-18, 20-23, 31-35 and 40-49 are pending in the present application.
 3. The FINAL rejection of 30 March 2009 is hereby withdrawn.
- 4. In view of the appeal brief filed on 30 March 2009, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED.** A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

/Tonia LM Dollinger/

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-13, 15-17, 20-23, 31-35, 40, 42, and 44-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Collins (US 20020029285 A1).

Consider claim 1. Collins teaches a remote viewing system, comprising: a serving station coupled to a medical diagnostic imaging system for controlling the imaging system and configured to receive image data, the serving station comprising:

a processing rate (read as scanner module) configured to modify a scanning rate of the image data;

[Collins, paragraph 0014] ... the present invention adapts a processing rate in response to changing network conditions ... will process subsequent graphical data ...

and an encoder module configured to modify an encoding format of the image data;

[Collins, paragraph 0014] ... the encoding technique used while processing the graphical data by the server agent at the first rate can be modified to a second encoding scheme/technique in response to changes in the network conditions that are determined by the server agent ...

a served station from which a remote operator may interact with the serving station, the served station being configured to receive modified image data from the serving station via a network;

[Collins, paragraph 0003] From the perspective of the user, the application program seems to be executing locally even though it is actually being executed on a remote server and just being displayed locally.

and a plurality of network sensors in communication with the serving station and configured to provide network performance data to the serving station, wherein the serving station dynamically modifies at least one of the scanning rate and the encoding format based on the network performance data.

[Collins, paragraph 0014] In one embodiment, the present invention adapts a processing rate in response to changing network conditions. In one aspect of the invention, the server agent processes graphical data addressed to the client agent at a first rate. By determining the network conditions of the network that couples the client and server agents, the server agent can adjust its processing rate from the first rate to a second rate in response to a change in the network conditions. The server agent can determine information about the network conditions by transmitting the processed graphical data to the client agent and instructing the client to measure a time differential associated with the transmission or receipt of the graphical data. In this manner, the time differential provides an indicator of the network conditions and the server agent can rationally select the second rate in accordance with this time differential. Similarly, the encoding technique used while processing the graphical data by the server agent at the first rate can be modified to a second encoding scheme/technique in response to changes in the network conditions that are determined by the server agent. The network conditions can be estimated in accordance with the time differential discussed previously. Once the second encoding technique is selected by the server agent, the server agent will process subsequent graphical data using this second encoding technique.

Consider claim 2, as applied to claim 1. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the serving station comprises a monitor for presenting image data to an operator.

[Collins, paragraph 0003] From the perspective of the user, the application program seems to be executing locally even though it is actually being executed on a remote server and just being displayed locally.

Consider claim 3, as applied to claim 2. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the serving station is configured to present an indication associated with the network performance data to the operator.

[Collins, paragraph 0068] As the encoded bitmap 414 is being transmitted, the transmission time can be monitored to determine the performance of the network 140. If the transmission time exceeds a threshold value, the client agent 118 can draw whatever bitmap data has already been stored in its cache 114 and display the remaining portions of the bitmap data either in real-time as it is received in the cache 114 or at predetermined intervals. In this manner, a user of the client will recognize that the client 110 is still operating on the bitmap data and be able to discern that the client 110 is not in a hung or failed/error condition.

Consider claim 5, as applied to claim 3. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the indication comprises a network indicator that relates to the network performance data.

[Collins, paragraph 0014] ... the time differential provides an indicator of the network conditions and the server agent can rationally select the second rate in accordance with this time differential ...

Consider claim 6, as applied to claim 1. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the serving station is in communication with an imaging system configured to detect a plurality of signals that are convertible into an image, the imaging system configured to produce the image data.

[Collins, paragraph 0082] The present invention can also be applied to bitmaps that are displayed in an on-screen surface, as well as to bitmaps in an off-screen surface (e.g., that are stored in a video display adapter's memory and/or in a pre-allocated section of the client's volatile memory 114 that will be operated on by a graphics conversion library). Off-screen surfaces are frequently formed by applications, such as Microsoft Word, that write bitmaps to the off-screen surface until the surface is complete, at which time the off-screen surface is displayed on the display screen 128 of the client 110 in final form as an on-screen surface. Therefore, off-screen surfaces frequently provide the source for on-screen surfaces.

Consider claim 7, as applied to claim 1. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the plurality of network sensors exchange a plurality of packets to determine network congestion.

[Collins, paragraph 0014] ... the server agent processes graphical data addressed to the client agent at a first rate. By determining the network conditions of the network that couples the client and server agents, the server agent can adjust its processing rate from the first rate to a second rate in response to a change in the network conditions ...

Consider claim 8, as applied to claim 1. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the plurality of network sensors exchange a plurality of packets to determine network latency.

[Collins, paragraph 0014] ... The server agent can determine information about the network conditions by transmitting the processed graphical data to the client agent and instructing the client to measure a time differential associated with the transmission or receipt of the graphical data ...

Consider claim 9, as applied to claim 1. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the network comprises a wide area network.

[Collins, paragraph 0034] ... The network 140 can be a local-area network (LAN), a medium-area network (MAN), or a wide area network (WAN) such as the Internet or the World Wide Web ...

Consider claim 10, as applied to claim 1. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the network comprises an Internet.

[Collins, paragraph 0034]

Consider claim 12, as applied to claim 1. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the serving station utilizes a remote framebuffer protocol to transmit the modified image data to the served station.

[Collins, paragraph 0072] The invention mitigates this overscroll problem by reducing its frequency of occurrence. More particularly, the invention periodically times selected scroll events at the server 150 (by scrolling the frame buffer) and at the client 110 (via the StopWatch commands discussed above) to compute a moving average estimate of their respective speeds. In this manner, the server agent 160 estimates how long a particular scroll event will take (speed times the number of pixels involved) to process at the server 150 and how long the client 110 is expected to take and if the expected processing time at the client 110 is larger than that of the server 150, the server processing is suspended by the appropriate time differential so as to keep the client 110 and server 150 substantially in step. This approach results in many fewer overscrolls due to the time lag between the client 110 and server 150 as compared to the number of overscrolls occurring when this approach is not implemented.

Consider claim 13, as applied to claim 1. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the served station transmits remote input data to the serving station.

[Collins, paragraph 0003] During execution of the application program, a user of the client views the application output data on the client's display and interacts with the application program via keyboard or mouse inputs. The client user's inputs correspond to requests to the application server to perform certain actions that affect the operation of the application program.

Consider claim 15. Collins discloses a method for adapting screen

updates based on network congestion, the method comprising:

linking a serving station to a served station via a network, the serving station being coupled to a medical diagnostic imaging system for controlling the imaging system and being configured to receive image data,

[Collins, paragraph 0014] ... the server agent processes graphical data addressed to the client agent at a first rate ...

the served station enabling a remote operator to interact with the serving station, the served station being configured to receive modified image data from the serving station via a network,

[Collins, paragraph 0068] ... the invention adapts the server's operation to changing network conditions by determining the relative speed of the network 140. For example, by dynamically assessing the bandwidth of the network 140, the server agent 160 can modify the encoding and compression techniques used to process bitmap data in order to reduce bandwidth requirements when transmitting over a slow network. The invention processes columns of bitmap data from left to right and primes the client cache 114 accordingly. As the encoded bitmap 414 is being transmitted, the transmission time can be monitored to determine the performance of the network 140. If the transmission time exceeds a threshold value, the client agent 118 can draw whatever bitmap data has already been stored in its cache 114 and display the remaining portions of the bitmap data either in real-time as it is received in the cache 114 or at predetermined intervals. In this manner, a user of the client will recognize that the client 110 is still operating on the bitmap data and be able to discern that the client 110 is not in a hung or failed/error condition ...

wherein the serving station utilizes a remote framebuffer protocol to transmit the modified image data to the served station;

[Collins, paragraph 0072] The invention mitigates this overscroll problem by reducing its frequency of occurrence. More particularly, the invention periodically times selected scroll events at the server 150 (by scrolling the frame buffer) and at the client 110 (via the StopWatch commands discussed above) to compute a moving average estimate of their respective speeds. In this manner, the server agent 160 estimates how long a particular scroll event will take (speed times the number of pixels involved) to process at the server 150 and how long the client 110 is expected to take and if the expected processing time at the client 110 is larger than that of the server 150, the server processing is suspended by the appropriate time differential so as to keep the client 110 and server 150 substantially in step. This approach results in many fewer overscrolls

due to the time lag between the client 110 and server 150 as compared to the number of overscrolls occurring when this approach is not implemented.

measuring network performance between a serving station and a served station,

[Collins, paragraph 0014] ... The server agent can determine information about the network conditions by transmitting the processed graphical data to the client agent and instructing the client to measure a time differential associated with the transmission or receipt of the graphical data ...

wherein the serving station provides screen data derived from an imaging system to the served station;

[Collins, paragraph 0014] ... the server agent processes graphical data addressed to the client agent at a first rate. By determining the network conditions of the network that couples the client and server agents, the server agent can adjust its processing rate from the first rate to a second rate in response to a change in the network conditions. The server agent can determine information about the network conditions by transmitting the processed graphical data to the client agent and instructing the client to measure a time differential associated with the transmission or receipt of the graphical data ...

and adjusting the screen data transmitted to the served station automatically based on the measurement of the network performance, wherein adjusting the screen data comprises modifying a frame buffer scanning algorithm based on the network performance.

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

Consider claim 16, as applied to claim 15. Collins discloses a method wherein measuring network performance comprises transmitting a test packet from the serving station and receiving a response packet from the served station.

[Collins, paragraph 0039] During execution of the application program 158, a server 150 communicates with the client node 110 over a transport mechanism (part of the server agent 160). In one embodiment, the transport mechanism provides multiple virtual channels and one of the virtual channels provides a protocol for transmission of graphical screen data from the server node 150 to the client node 110. The server 150 executes a protocol driver (part of the server agent 160) that intercepts graphical display interface commands (generated by the application program 158 and targeted at the server's operating system 156) and translates them into a protocol packet suitable for transmission over the transport mechanism.

Consider claim 17, as applied to claim 15. Collins discloses a method comprising converting image data from the imaging system into screen data.

[Collins, paragraph 0082]

Consider claim 20, as applied to claim 15. Collins discloses a method comprising transmitting the screen data to the served station from the serving station.

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

Consider claim 21, as applied to claim 15. Collins discloses a method comprising encoding the screen data for transmission to the server station.

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

Consider claim 22, as applied to claim 21. discloses a method wherein adjusting comprises modifying a data transmission algorithm that compresses the screen data based on the network performance.

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

Consider claim 23, as applied to claim 15. discloses a method comprising displaying an indication of the network performance at one of the serving station and the served station based on the measurement of the network performance.

[Collins, paragraphs 0014-0015]

Consider claim 31. Collins discloses a method for adapting screen updates based on network performance, the method comprising:

linking a serving station to a served station via a network, the serving station being coupled to a medical diagnostic imaging system for controlling the imaging system and being configured to receive image data,

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

the served station enabling a remote operator to interact with the serving station, the served station being configured to receive modified image data from the serving station via a network; detecting network performance between a serving station and a served station;

[Collins, paragraph 0068]

comparing the network performance to a specified range;

[Collins, paragraph 0068] As the encoded bitmap 414 is being transmitted, the transmission time can be monitored to determine the performance of the network 140. If the transmission time exceeds a threshold value, the client agent 118 can draw whatever bitmap data has already been stored in its cache 114 and display the remaining portions of the bitmap data either in real-time as it is received in the cache 114 or at predetermined intervals.

and modifying a plurality (client and server) of screen updates dynamically based upon the comparison of the network performance.

[Collins, paragraph 0015] In one embodiment, the invention adapts a processing rate of the server in response to a performance mismatch between the server and the client coupled to the server via the network. In operation, the server agent processes graphical data and determines a first time period associated with such processing. For example, the first time period can be determined by scrolling a frame buffer of the server. The client agent also processes the graphical data and determines a second time period associated with its processing. The server agent then determines the time differential between the first and second time periods and adjusts its processing rate in accordance therewith.

Consider claim 32, as applied to claim 31. Collins discloses a method wherein the network performance corresponds to the latency of a network coupling the serving station and the served station.

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

Consider claim 33, as applied to claim 31. Collins discloses a method wherein dynamically modifying the plurality of screen updates comprises adjusting a frame buffer scanning algorithm based on the network performance.

[Collins, paragraph 0015]

Consider claim 34, as applied to claim 31. discloses a method wherein dynamically modifying the plurality of screen updates comprises adjusting an encoding algorithm based on the network performance.

[Collins, paragraphs 0014-0015]

Consider claim 35, as applied to claim 31. discloses a method comprising encoding the plurality of screen updates for transmission to the served station.

[Collins, paragraph 0015]

Consider claim 40. Collins discloses a system for adapting screen updates based on network performance, the system comprising:

a serving station coupled to a medical diagnostic imaging system for controlling the imaging system and configured to receive image data;

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

a served station from which a remote operator may interact with the serving station, the served station being configured to receive modified image data from the serving station via a network;

[Collins, paragraph 0068]

means for detecting network performance between the serving station and the served station;

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

means for comparing the network performance to a specified range;

[Collins, paragraph 0068]

and means for dynamically modifying a plurality (client and server) of screen updates based upon the comparison of the network performance to the specified range.

[Collins, paragraph 0015]

Consider claim 42. Collins discloses a remote viewing system for a medical imaging system, comprising:

an imaging system configured to detect a plurality of signals that are convertible into an image, the system configured to produce image data;

[Collins, paragraph 0082]

a serving station configured to receive the image data and control the imaging system, the serving station comprising: a scanner module configured to modify a scanning rate of the image data;

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

and an encoder module configured to modify an encoding format of the image data;

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

a served station configured to receive modified image data from the

serving station and to interact with the serving station via a network;

[Collins, paragraph 0068]

and a plurality of network sensors in communication with the serving station and configured to provide network performance data to the serving station, wherein the serving station dynamically modifies at least one of the scanning rate and the encoding format based on the network performance data.

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

Consider claim 44, as applied to claim 42. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the serving station is configured to present an indication associated with the network performance data to an operator.

[Collins, paragraph 0003]

Consider claim 45, as applied to claim 42. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the plurality of network sensors exchange a plurality of packets to determine network performance.

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

Consider claim 46, as applied to claim 42. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the network comprises a wide area network.

[Collins, paragraph 0034]

Consider claim 47, as applied to claim 42. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the plurality of network sensors exchange a plurality of packets to determine network latency.

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

Consider claim 48, as applied to claim 42. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein the serving station utilizes a remote framebuffer protocol to transmit the modified image data in the served station.

[Collins, paragraph 0072]

Consider claim 49, as applied to claim 42. discloses a remote viewing system wherein the served station transmits remote input data to the serving station.

[Collins, paragraph 0003]

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. Claims 4, 14, and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins (US 20020029285 A1) in view of Tanenbaum (US 5119319 A).

Consider claim 4, as applied to claim 3. Collins teaches a remote viewing system, comprising: a serving station coupled to a medical diagnostic imaging system for controlling the imaging system and configured to receive image data, the serving station comprising: a processing rate (read as scanner module) configured to modify a scanning rate of the image data; and an encoder module configured to modify an encoding format of the image data; a served station from which a remote operator may interact with the serving station, the served station being configured to receive modified image data from the serving station via a network; and a plurality of network sensors in communication with the serving station and configured to provide network performance data to the serving station, wherein the serving station dynamically modifies at least one of the scanning rate and the encoding format based on the network performance data.

However, Collins does not explicitly disclose a system or method comprising a bar chart.

Tanenbaum discloses a full duplex video communication system comprising a bar chart.

[Tanenbaum, column 5 lines 49-53] If the local system is in the eraser mode (box 220), it will draw a filled bar having the same color as the background at the current cursor location (box 222); and it will send instructions to the remote terminal(s) to do the same (box 218).

Collins discloses a prior art remote viewing system, comprising: a serving station coupled to a medical diagnostic imaging system for controlling the imaging system and configured to receive image data, the serving station comprising: a processing rate (read as scanner module) configured to modify a scanning rate of the image data; and an encoder module configured to modify an encoding format of the image data; a served station from which a remote operator may interact with the serving station, the served station being configured to receive modified image data from the serving station via a network; and a plurality of network sensors in communication with the serving station and configured to provide network performance data to the serving station, wherein the serving station dynamically modifies at least one of the scanning rate and the encoding format based on the network performance data upon which the claimed invention can be seen as an improvement.

Tanenbaum teaches a prior art comparable full duplex video communication system comprising a bar chart.

Thus, the manner of enhancing a particular device (full duplex video communication system comprising a bar chart) was made part of the ordinary capabilities of one skilled in the art based upon the teaching of such improvement in Tanenbaum. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been capable of applying this known improvement technique in the same manner to the prior art remote viewing system, comprising: a serving station coupled to a medical diagnostic imaging system for controlling the imaging system and configured to receive image data, the serving station comprising: a processing rate configured to modify a scanning rate of the image data; and an encoder module configured to modify an encoding format of the image data; a served station from which a remote operator may interact with the serving station, the served station being configured to receive modified image data from the serving station via a network; and a plurality of network sensors in communication with the serving station and configured to provide network performance data to the serving station, wherein the serving station dynamically modifies at least one of the scanning rate and the encoding format based on the network performance data of Collins and the results would have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art, namely, one skilled in the art would have readily recognized a system and method of adapting graphical data and processing activity to changing network conditions.

Consider claim 14, as applied to claim 1. Collins, as modified by Tanenbaum, discloses a remote viewing system wherein the serving station

receives local input data from a local operator via an input device that is coupled to the serving station.

[Tanenbaum, column 9 line 66 – column 10 line 2] Different programs may be used at the different terminals as long as the programs are able to provide the functions of displaying both information input from the local terminal and information input from the remote terminal(s) at the correct places on the display screen.

Consider claim 41. Collins, as modified by Tanenbaum, discloses a system for adapting screen updates based on network congestion, the system comprising:

a serving station coupled to a medical diagnostic imaging system for controlling the imaging system and configured to receive image data,

[Collins, paragraph 0014]

wherein the serving station receives local input data from a local operator via an input device that is coupled to the serving station;

[Tanenbaum, column 9 line 66 – column 10 line 2]

a served station from which a remote operator may interact with the serving station, the served station being configured to receive modified image data from the serving station via a network;

[Collins, paragraph 0068]

means for measuring network performance between the serving station

and the served station, wherein the serving station provides screen data derived from an imaging system to the served station; and means for automatically adjusting the screen data transmitted to the served station based on the measurement of the network performance,

[Collins, paragraph 0005] The invention achieves this reduction in several different ways, for example, by encoding the graphical data into a smaller object, by representing a graphical object with indicia of the object, by increasing the repetitiveness of the data in the protocol stream so that compression algorithms operate more efficiently, by tracking and leveraging the prior transmissions of identical/repetitive graphical objects, by adapting the rate of processing activity or the encoding technique in response to changes in the network performance or in response to performance mismatches between the client and server, and in several other ways described herein.

wherein adjusting the screen data comprises modifying a frame buffer scanning algorithm based on the network performance.

[Collins, paragraph 0015]

9. Claims 11, 18, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Collins (US 20020029285 A1) in view of Lang et al. (US 20040138754 A1).

Consider claim 11, as applied to claim 1. Collins discloses a remote viewing system wherein a serving station receives image data.

However, Collins does not explicitly disclose a medical imaging system.

Lang et al. discloses a system and method of a minimally invasive joint implant with 3-Dimensional geometry matching the articular surfaces.

Collins discloses a prior art system and method of manipulating a compressed video screen comprising a scanner module configured to modify a scanning rate of the image data; an encoder module configured to modify an encoding format of the image data; a served station from which a remote operator may interact with the serving station, the served station being configured to receive modified image data from the serving station via a network; and a network sensor in communication with the serving station and configured to provide network performance data to the serving station, wherein the serving station dynamically modifies at least one of the scanning rate and the encoding format based on the network performance data; and a system and method for adjusting the traffic carried by a network comprising a plurality of network sensors upon which the claimed invention can be seen as an improvement.

Lang et al. teaches a prior art system and method of a minimally invasive joint implant with 3-Dimensional geometry matching the articular surfaces.

Thus, the manner of enhancing a particular device (system and method of a minimally invasive joint implant with 3-Dimensional geometry matching the articular surfaces) was made part of the ordinary capabilities of one skilled in the art based upon the teaching of such improvement in Lang et al. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been capable of applying this known improvement technique in the same manner to the prior art of Collins and the results would have been predictable to one of ordinary skill in the art, namely, one skilled in the art would have readily recognized a method and apparatus for dynamically adapting medical image updates based on network performance.

Consider claim 18, as applied to claim 15. Collins, as modified by Lang et al., discloses a method wherein the imaging system comprises one of a computed tomography imaging system, a magnetic resonance imaging system, a tomosynthesis system, a positron emission tomography imaging system, and a X-ray imaging system.

[Lang et al., paragraph 0075] As will be appreciated by those of skill in the art, the practice of the present invention employs, unless otherwise indicated, conventional methods of x-ray imaging and processing, x-ray tomosynthesis, ultrasound including A-scan, B-scan and C-scan, computed tomography (CT scan), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), optical coherence tomography, single photon emission tomography (SPECT) and positron emission tomography (PET) within the skill of the art. Such techniques are explained fully in the literature and need not be described herein.

Consider claim 43, as applied to claim 42. Collins, as modified by Lang et al., discloses a remote viewing system wherein the imaging system comprises one of a computed tomography imaging system, a magnetic resonance imaging system, a tomosynthesis system, a positron emission tomography imaging system, and an X-ray imaging system.

[Lang et al., paragraph 0075]

Response to Arguments

- 10.** Applicant's arguments filed January 15, 2009 with respect to claims 1, 15, 31, and 40-42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

X-Ray Structure Determination: A Practical Guide, 2nd Edition, editors Stout and Jensen, 1989, John Wiley & Sons, publisher;

Body CT: A Practical Approach, editor Sloane, 1999, McGraw-Hill publisher;

X-ray Diagnosis: A Physician's Approach, editor Lam, 1998 Springer-Verlag, publisher;

Dental Radiology: Understanding the X-Ray Image, editor Laetitia Brocklebank 1997, Oxford University Press publisher.

Any response to this Office Action should be faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

Examiner should be directed to Mark Fearer whose telephone number is (571) 270-1770. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Tonia Dollinger can be reached on (571) 272-4170. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 571-272-4100.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Mark Fearer
/M.D.F./
September 14, 2009

/J Bret Dennison/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2443